MEDICAL MISSIONS.

FACTS, INCIDENTS AND TESTIMONIES

TO SHOW THEIR

NEED, VALUE AND SUCCESS.

BY THE REV. C. E. EBERMAN.

PUBLISHED BY THE
SOCIETY FOR PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL,
BETHLEHEM, PA.,
1892.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every sickness among the people.—*Matt. 9: 35.*

And He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. . . . . And they departed and went through the towns, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere.—*Luke 9: 2, 6.*

"I was sick and ye visited Me. . . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."—*Matt. 25: 36, 40.*

MEDICAL MISSIONS.

More and more is the department of Medical Missionary activity engaging the earnest and thoughtful attention of those who are engaged in superintending mission-work as well as of those who are in the field.

In large cities, free medical attendance and dispensaries form a large and influential part of city mission-work and are indispensable to thoroughness, affording one of the best channels to reach the masses, through which the Gospel message can be brought.

The same principle applies to the general mission-field everywhere.

It has been proven beyond a doubt, that one of the best means of reaching the heathen, is with a Gospel which seeks to heal their physical diseases as well as save them from their sins.

Did not our Saviour touch with His healing hand and make many whole? The whole city was moved because of Him, when He entered; the lame, the halt, the blind, the deaf, the diseased moved towards Him, recognizing in Him a Friend of all, Whose power could help and heal them.

He healed in order that He might save. His Church has received the commission to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, and is to use every means available for

that purpose. With that commission in hand, with His example before us, and His blessing upon our work—we must be Christ-like in our methods and our zeal for the evangelization of the world.

This pamphlet is intended to bring the cause of Medical Missions to the attention of the members and friends of the Moravian Church, with a view to awaken a deep and lasting interest in this most important factor in missionary activity, and to urge on the development of the Medical Mission department in our general mission work.

WHAT IS A MEDICAL MISSIONARY?

A fully qualified physician, who uses his or her medical knowledge for the relief of physical suffering, and in order to obtain an entrance for that Gospel which he or she seeks to make known. In other words, one who takes the fruits of Christianity and then seeks to plant the roots.[1]

In accordance with Moravian missionary polity, the medical missionary would enter into the same official relations not only to the Church which sends him (or her) out, but also to that Board through which in commission from the Church his (or her) call has been given, as those which obtain in the case of other missionaries—and this both in regard to rights and obligations.

WHAT IS A MEDICAL MISSION DISPENSARY OR HOSPITAL?

A place where the sick poor are gathered together to obtain physical relief, and while there have the Gospel preached to them.

---

[1] Dr. Dowkontt's definitions.

WHY SHOULD MEDICAL MISSIONS EXIST?

Because of the great need of them, and their immense value in obtaining access to, removing prejudice from and establishing confidence among the heathen.

WHAT REASONS CAN BE ADDUCED FOR THEIR EMPLOYMENT?

Chiefly four.

Christ commands it.—The commission which Christ gave to His apostles, the first missionaries, was to preach the Gospel and heal the sick, and implies like obligation on the Church of to-day to render bodily as well as spiritual aid.

Sympathy demands it.—The portrayal of heathen customs and practices as well as a knowledge of their condition appeals most powerfully for our sympathy.

Wisdom dictates it.—The rapid establishment of Medical Missions by the Church of to-day, wherever men and means will allow, is conclusive evidence that Mission Boards consider their employment a part of wisdom.

Experience proves the value of Medical Missions.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES OF MEDICAL MISSIONS?

Among others, self-preservation, self-support, as far as practicable, and successful Gospel effort.

The need for medical missionaries is probably little known and still less realized by the vast majority of Christians, but the following facts are adduced as affording some idea of it.

1. There are over one thousand millions of heathens in the world.

2. They are perishing no less physically for lack of medical aid than spiritually from ignorance of the Gospel.

3. There is only one Medical Missionary to as large a population as that of New York City.

4. The heathen are dying at the rate of forty millions every year, the greater number of them without any knowledge of Christ Jesus.

5. These poor sufferers have bodies like ours, and can feel as we do. We know it? Yes, but are we not in danger of forgetting it?

6. We know what sickness is with all the aids of modern science, but what must it be without any of them?

7. Many missionaries might be spared for further faithful work, if in the time of their own sickness, they could have proper medical attendance and care.

HEATHEN CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES.

Many of the things perpetrated in accordance with the methods of medical treatment among the heathen are in themselves piteous appeals to us. Dr. Summers, in Africa, met with two little children, only a few months old. The mother sought to cure their illness by scoring them from head to foot with a sharp knife, and he counted over four hundred wounds on the body of one child.

Bishop Taylor narrates that he saw the husband of a sick woman suddenly plunge a knife into the heart of his ten year old girl because he believed that she had bewitched her mother.

In China, a daughter cut from her arm a large portion of flesh which was cooked and eaten by a dying parent, as a supposed means of saving life.

Not unfrequently the natives of the Friendly Islands, in order to check any spreading ulceration or disease, remove the limb at a joint, working a sharp shell to and fro, and making a horrible, jagged wound. In case of delirium, the

patient is invariably buried alive ; and it is related, how a young man in the prime of life was twice buried and in his frenzy twice burst up the grave ; he was afterwards lashed to a tree and died of starvation.

Among the natives of the South Pacific Islands, cutting is the universal remedy for every ailment. If pain in the head is felt, then an incision is made over the part, to let out the pain. This practice often results in death in its most horrible form.

A great many of the Burmese are blind, chiefly because of the terrible remedies used for a mere inflammation of the eye. Often salt and ginger are rubbed into the eyes, to the entire loss of sight.

The Burmese are lamentably ignorant of surgery, and instead of placing a fractured limb at rest they keep moving it about. A poor girl came to a Medical Missionary dragging her fractured limb after her in a most painful manner. She had broken her thigh and the ignorant native doctor had kept moving the limb in various directions as a means of cure.

Among the Indians, the eyes and ears of little babes, suffering with some trifling disease that a few simple remedies might cure, are stuffed with mud, and death often results from this cruel treatment.

VALUE OF MEDICAL MISSIONS.

The value of Medical Missions in removing prejudice and evoking the deepest gratitude has been manifested again and again, and the wonder to many is that we have been so slow to see the value of this agency.

In Africa, Dr. Summers was laden with the gifts of the grateful people he had treated at Melange ; and by means of these gifts alone he was able to arrive at the farther side of the Congo, a distance of more than a thousand miles,

his Society not being in a position to give him, at the time, a single dollar.

Dr. Valentine, while seeking a change of air for his own health, made a formal call upon the Maharajah, through whose country he passed. The latter informed him that his wife was very ill, and that the native physicians had given her up. Dr. Valentine requested to see her, and was successful in restoring her to health.

The Maharajah said, "What can I do for you?"

Dr. Valentine replied, "Let me preach the Gospel here."

"If you stay here and be my private physician, I shall be very glad."

"But I am a missionary of the Gospel."

(No missionary had previously been allowed to settle in Jeypore.)

The Maharajah replied, "But you will be my private physician, will you not?"

Dr. Valentine said, "Yes, but only on one condition, that you will allow me to preach the Gospel from one end of the province to the other end without hindrance." The Maharajah agreed, and Dr. Valentine remained for fourteen years—a large and prosperous mission is the result.

In China, Dr. Mackenzie operated upon the eyes of two girls and their mother and gave them sight. She had never seen her children, and her delight and gratitude knew no bounds. All three together with the father and many others were converted, and a successful church of more than a hundred members is now in their village.

In Amoy, a man came to the Hospital for treatment, and was cured both in body and in soul. He returned home and became a living witness for Christ. Others believed, and there are now, as the result of that cure, no less than seven congregations.

In Fuhkien, a missionary had labored long with little

apparent effect. The first converts were attracted by the medical skill of the Rev. W. H. Collins. The native church now numbers more than 4000.

In Leh, the late Dr. Marx reported concerning Hospital work, during the three years from 1887 to 1890, 262 in-patients and 4967 out-patients. 1127 cases were reported in 1886, and 50 patients were attended to on his expedition to the uplands about Chooshul, making the grand total of 5406 cases. Thirty-five were operations for cataract, of which five-sixths were successful. Verily, the blind receive their sight! The town of Leh has only 2500 inhabitants. Hence a large number of patients must have come from the surrounding towns and villages. What an opportunity to sow the seed of the Gospel.

In Corea, Dr. Allen attended and healed the prince, supposed to be dying from a wound received in battle, thirteen of the native surgeons having tried in vain to stop the bleeding by pouring molten wax into the wound. The prince afterwards told the Doctor that his people said, "The doctor did not come from America, but from Heaven"—and in a sense he certainly did.

The Hospital for Lepers in Jerusalem is maintained by the Moravian Church with the two-fold purpose of relieving bodily suffering and preaching Christ. This home is doing untold good to these poor unfortunates, not a few of whom, though burdened with this dreadful and incurable disease, in the midst of their sufferings, are happy in the Saviour's love.

MEDICAL MISSIONS AND SELF-SUPPORT.

Testimony is already accumulating to the effect that Medical Missions can be made self-supporting. In some instances, in fact, the preliminary expenses of the hospital have been met by the natives.

Lady Li, wife of Li Hung-Chang, the Governor-General, was so dangerously ill, that the native physicians gave her up. Dr. Mackenzie, medical missionary at Hankow, and Dr. Irwin were summoned to attend her. With God's blessing on the treatment, Lady Li's life was saved. So great was the gratitude of the Governor, that he fitted up a dispensary for Dr. Mackenzie in a heathen temple, the largest in Tientsin, furnished the medicines and allowed him full liberty to preach the Gospel to the patients. It was found necessary soon after to move the dispensary to a more convenient and central locality. The Viceroy contributed a large amount to the building fund, and General Chow, to whom Dr. Mackenzie rendered valuable medical aid, sent $750 for that purpose. This timely gift suggested the idea of sending subscription lists to other wealthy Chinese officials, and liberal contributions flowed in. All the necessary funds for the support of this Medical Mission in Tientsin have been obtained from native sources.

In Shin Kwan there is a consulting room where the rich people of the town come and pay fees for treatment. The fees are small, yet large enough to purchase the medicine which the poor people receive gratuitously.

The Hankow Mission Hospital was built by funds raised among the Chinese themselves.

During the year 1888, the Medical Missionary Society of China, in Canton, attended to 39,442 cases and performed 2,839 surgical operations at a cost of only $4,637.

While seeking an opening in the district South of Rajputana, India, the Canadian Missionaries were told that they were not wanted, but if they would come as medical missionaries, they would be given a site at once for a house and help for a hospital.

General Fang, commanding officer of the Chinese garrison on the great island of Hainan, has authorized Dr. Jeremiassen to have two buildings for hospital use erected at the government's expense; and after the present military inmates have sufficiently recovered to be able to leave them, they are to be made over to the mission.

There are now in China twenty hospitals and twenty-five dispensaries where two hundred thousand cases are annually treated, and eighty-two medical missionaries, sixteen of whom are women, besides scores of trained nurses, foreign and native. The preaching of the Gospel goes hand in hand with the medical work.

In Corea, a hospital was established at government expense, as a result of the successful treatment of the sick nephew of the king by Dr. Allen. Dr. Allen was put in charge with permission to "preach" and to "heal." Thus the Medical Mission became the golden key by which God unlocked the door for missions in Corea.

Dr. Southon was passing through Urambo, Central Africa. The king hastily sent messengers with the request that he would visit him and relieve him of a painful tumor on his arm. Dr. Southon operated and succeeded in removing the tumor. Out of gratitude, the king requested him to remain and establish a mission, promising to build him a house and hospital and provide everything necessary for his comfort and work, and to give him as much land as he needed. Said he, "The country is before you, choose where you will, it is all yours." As a result Dr. Southon established a most hopeful mission in Urambo, where the seed of the truth has been sown broadcast.

The Medical Missions, instead of increasing the expense of Missions, have in many instances been established without expense to the Mission Boards, as gifts of gratitude on the part of the natives.

God has already honored and blessed Medical Missions so signally, that we doubtless shall not err in recognizing that His providence is beckoning on the Church to avail itself yet more extensively of this instrumentality, to enter new doors and to reach the homes and hearts of heathen.

TESTIMONY FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

"The medical missionary has ten times more access to the people than the ordinary missionary."—*Missionary from Central Turkey.*

"Ten years from now, when the Medical Mission has multiplied ten-fold, we shall wonder that we were so slow to adopt it as a means of introducing the Gospel to the homes of heathen nations. In seeking to carrying healing for body and soul we have the best of all examples, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself."—*New York Observer.*

"Everywhere the poor women crowd around the lady missionary who possesses healing power and almost worship the hem of her garment. In the peculiar seclusion of the higher class of women of India and China, she is doubly welcome and many a bigoted Hindoo or lordly Chinese husband will come pleading the "Mem Sahib" to save his wife's life. On these occasions, the voice of prayer has for the first time ascended to God, and as an ultimate issue whole households have become Christians."—*Mrs. E. Raymond Pitman.*

"I have no hesitation in expressing it as my solemn conviction that, as yet, no medium of contact and of bringing the people under the sound of the Gospel and within the influence of other means of grace can compare with the facilities offered by medical missionary operations."—*Dr. Peter Parker.*

"I have just returned from one of my missionary tours, during which I baptized two hundred and fifty converts and met a still larger number of inquirers, and my conviction is that if we had a trained preacher and Christian physician to go together, two and two, into every district in the empire of China, it would soon work a mighty upheaval in this land."—*Rev. J. H. Corbett.*

"We do not care for your sermons, for we need not listen, nor your books, for we need not read them, but your doctors steal our hearts and your women steal our homes."—*A Brahmin of India.*

"Medical Missionaries are needful:

1. For the sake of the families of missionaries. Many a death has occurred in the ranks of the missionaries through want of proper medical attendance.

2. For the sake of the heathen. It is well known that in heathen lands the knowledge of medicine is very small, resorts being had to charms, sacrifices to idols, or the cruelest sort of medical practice.

3. For the sake of the Gospel. It has been abundantly shown that medical missionaries are better qualified and more successful in breaking down prejudice to the Gospel than even the regular missionaries."—*W. J. Wanless, M.D., Bombay.*

"The door is open to the medical missionary when it is closed to all others and his entrance has been the means of securing a welcome to all Christian missionaries for His sake."—*Rev. Wm. M. Taylor, D.D.*

"Were it practicable to raise up and maintain a sufficient staff of fully qualified and fully equipped native medical missionaries—men of fervent piety and missionary zeal—I believe it would be one of the most powerful evangelistic agencies which the Church could call into action."
—*Dr. Hutchinson, M. M. in Chamba.*

"Without the medical missionary all depends upon the tongue of the ordained missionary and his power to interest by speech and manner. But the medical missionary brings something very tangible before the attention of the people, and access is thereby obtained to whole classes of people who never would think of coming in contact with the mere preacher. So I rejoiced with all my heart to see two missionary families in Foo-King-Foo, clerical and medical, and longed with all my heart to see more of such settlements in the mission."—*Bishop Burdon.*

"The medical work in missions is nothing save as it helps to show to the heathen that the Divine Christ is the center, the soul, and the life of Christianity and that we are His disciples and followers."—*Rev. Edward Chester, M. D.*

A STRONG APPEAL.

"When we come before you with Scripture warrant on our side, with the personal example of our Lord and His Apostles not only beckoning us on, but reproving us for not having come, with the successful experience of medical missions, as far as they have yet been tried speaking strongly in our favor and with the united and cordial approval of every missionary with whom we have ever come in contact; when missionaries all tell us that they find the medical element so essential to the success of their work, that they are compelled sometimes to practice it themselves; when laborers from all quarters of the missionary field, men gallantly bearing the heat and burden of the day, are calling to us anxiously for medical colleagues, not on account of their own health, but to assist them in this great work of reaching the hearts of those whose souls they seek to save, when had we but the means and the men

we might now plant, not one, or two, or three, but many medical missions in the very heart and strongholds of heathenism and they would be gladly welcomed and by and by supported by the heathen themselves—with such claims as these, surely it is neither unbecoming nor unwarrantable that we ask earnestly and importunately for your sympathy and your aid."—*Prof. Miller, before the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society.*

OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

What is our responsibility?

First.—To our hands alone has been committed the double gift of medical science, to heal the body, and the Gospel for healing the soul.

Second.—If we fail to take these to the heathen, they cannot obtain them in any other way and so far as we are concerned they must perish body and soul.

The question of questions is this:

To know that millions are perishing body and soul; to possess the means which might save both; to withhold the same and let them perish—is WHAT?—*Dr. Dowkontt.*

CONCLUSION.

The presentation of the foregoing facts and testimonies has been made with a view to their practical application to the missionary activity of our own Moravian Church.

No one will dispute the fact that this mission work should be carried on with the most careful consideration of this eminently successful missionary factor.

No Church can face the demands of Gospel service at this day without making the best provision within its power for the equipment of men and women as Medical Missionaries.

There are few groups of mission stations that should be left without a duly qualified medical missionary.

Every effort should be made by those who are in any degree responsible for the management of our missions in whole or in part, to arouse the interest and support of the members and friends of our Church.

The members and friends of our Moravian Church, who have already been awakened to a sense of their responsibility should at once commence to gather offerings in order to meet the expenses that may be incurred in the preparation and support of the medical missionaries.

May the Lord add His blessing to the presentation of these facts and testimonies and move us to do with our might what our hands and hearts have again found to do. Around the Great Physician's standard let us unitedly and loyally rally and press resolutely on in His Name.

Contributions in aid of Moravian Medical Missions will be thankfully received by the Rev. Robt. de Schweinitz, Treasurer of the Society for Propagating the Gospel, Bethlehem, Pa.